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Safety critical for '101 Days'

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As the grills are lit for barbecuing, summer recreation goes into full swing and military members travel to visit friends and family.

The "101 Critical Days of Summer" also begin, and safety is paramount.

"Historically, the Air Force has seen an increase in the number of mishaps during the summer months," said Maj. Joseph Ward, 374th Airlift Wing chief of flight safety. "Personal risk management – stopping for a moment to consider the consequences of your actions – saves pain, heartache and precious resources."

Common mishaps occur in the summer while people are barbecuing, hiking, boating, during water sports and recreation, camping, handling fireworks, bicycling, hotel/air travel, jogging, workplace safety, skating and rollerblading, proper child seat use, other sports related activities, home and private motor vehicle safety – buckling seatbelts.

"Even though the Air Force has historically experienced the most mishaps – and deaths during the summer months, we have been experiencing a downward trend in the last 10 years," said Master Sgt. Garius Neal, 374th AW ground safety representative.

The downward trend doesn't mean safety can be relaxed, as Sergeant Neal explained. "Private motor vehicles, both 2- and 4-wheel, and sports and recreation mishaps are some of the most common mishaps we see year after year."

Sergeant Neal said using personal risk management to mitigate the possibility of mishaps during the "101 Critical Days of Summer" and throughout the year.

"Everyone should be aware of their surroundings and know their own capabilities and limits," said Sergeant Neal. "Proper planning – whether it's to climb Mt. Fuji, hike at Tama Hills, grill out for a get-together or participate in sports – is what can keep you injury free."

However, accidents do happen and Airmen must follow proper procedures to report mishaps.

"Any person who suffers an on- or off-duty mishap resulting in an injury that requires going to the hospital must report it to their supervisor," said Sergeant Neal. "Supervisors must fill out a Mishap Injury Report to safety as soon as possible.

"We need people to report timely mishaps because it provides accuracy for the Air Force Safety Center's trend analysis so they can put information out to prevent similar mishaps from occurring."



photos by Airman 1st Class Ladonnis Crump

Above, Tyler Overton, fourth grade student at Yokota East Elementary School, competes in the softball toss, in which he earned second place. He also participated in the 50-meter dash, bowling and the standing long jump. He took second in all the events except the 50-meter dash, where he competed against athletes twice his age. It is his second year competing in the Kanto Plain Special Olympics. Right, volunteers cheer on participants in one of the foot races. Thousands of base members come out to support the games each year.



Olympic spirit

By Jennifer Hensley
Fuji Flyer contributor

Last weekend marked the 27th year of the Special Olympics games here.

One Yokota Air Base athlete proved winning isn't everything – having fun is.

Tyler Overton, eleven years old, competed in four events and earned a total of three silver medals, but if you ask him what he enjoyed most about the games, the answer is written all over his face.

"I had a lot of fun," said Tyler, grinning from ear-to-ear.

"Tyler craves the interaction with the other athletes," said his mother, Angela Overton. "The games provide him with an opportunity to have fun doing something he loves."

Typically, the athletes are assigned events according to their scoring abilities. This year's games featured more than 400 athletes competing in 12 events. "While our ultimate goal is for the athletes to have fun, they truly are competing," said Tech. Sgt. Melody Tice-Baird, Special Olympics committee president. "Our games follow the international rules. That means scores are official and results are sent to the Special Olympics Worldwide headquarters." High-scoring athletes are invited to participate in the Special Olympics World Games.

Airmen, families invited to sports, safety day

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Samurai warriors from nearly every unit in the wing are scheduled to gather May 25 to enjoy a day of friendly competition during the 374th Airlift Wing's Samurai Safety and Sports Day.

There will be plenty of chances for wing members to gather and participate in a variety of sports activities as they compete for awards and accumulate points to earn the very first Commander's Safety Cup.

"We want everyone to come out and have a good time while practicing good techniques to avoid injury," said Master Sgt. Garius Neal, 374th AW ground safety noncommissioned officer. "Warming up is important to properly stretch out muscles based on the activity someone is participating in, but cool-down exercises and stretching are just as important in preventing injuries. Also, keeping hydrated is a must to avoid dehydration and cramping which can lead to injuries."

Wing members can participate in aero-

bics starting at 6 a.m.; the Samurai Challenge starting at 6:30 a.m. at the Natatorium and Snyder Park; a 5K run/walk at 7 a.m. starting at the Air Mobility Command terminal; one-pitch softball at 8 a.m. at Snyder Field; doubles tennis at the west side tennis courts starting at 8 a.m.; co-ed select shot golf at 8 a.m. at the Par 3; co-ed 3-on-3 basketball starting at 9 a.m. at the west side outdoor basketball court; sand volleyball at 9 a.m. at the west side outdoor volleyball court; foosball at 9 a.m. at Snyder Park; co-ed 4x50 swim medley relay at 10 a.m. at the Natatorium; Chiefs and Eagles softball game at 11 a.m. at Snyder Field; and tug-of-war at 1 p.m. at Snyder Park.

Safety is the theme during Samurai Sports Day and wing members can get valuable safety information at safety education booths at Snyder Field between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Food and refreshments will be available starting at 10:30 a.m. Snyder Park. Motorcyclists from the base will also be participating in a wing motorcycle ride from 3 to

3:45 p.m. that will begin and end at Snyder Park.

"Awards will be presented to units starting at 4 p.m. at the Snyder Outdoor Basketball Court to the top three large squadrons, top three small squadrons and the male and female Samurai Challenge winner," said Tech. Sgt. Andrew Yates, 374th Services Division noncommissioned officer in charge of fitness and sports programs. "The traveling tug of war trophy will also be presented along with Commander's Cup Trophies for large and small units for intramural sports."

"The Commander's Safety Cup is an opportunity for units to gain recognition for sound safety practices," said Sergeant Neal. "Points will be accumulated throughout the 101 Critical Days of Summer and be awarded to the top unit just before Labor Day. We hope everyone takes the opportunity to come out and support their units throughout Samurai Sports Day and learn a bit about safety while they're out here," said Sergeant Neal. "Have fun and be safe!"



by Val Gempis

Check it out

Senior Airman Shavone Simmons, 374th Medical Group medical technician, checks tubes of specimens from patients before running tests at the hospital here. The hospital laboratory performs about 48,000 tests annually on body tissues, blood, and body fluids. These tests detect and identify diseases and several medical conditions.

Force shaping continues, lieutenants notified May 10

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – More than a week ago, 2,084 lieutenants in the 2002 and 2003 accession year groups will learn if they were selected for retention by the Force Shaping Board.

Each officer is being notified personally of their status by their senior rater. Officers deployed will be notified by either the deployed commander or their home station senior rater.

The Force Shaping Board was led by a two-star board president. The board was broken down into panels of five consisting of one brigadier general and four colonels on each panel. Panel members were selected from the career fields of the officers affected.

"The members of this board were charged by the secretary of the Air Force to perform the complex task of right sizing our junior officer force by specialty," said Maj. Gen. Glenn Spears, director of force management policy, deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel, Headquarters U.S. Air Force.

"The board members were acutely aware of the magnitude of their role in serving on the first board thus institutionalizing the FSB process and ensuring the officer corps is balanced and sustainable."

Officers were evaluated for retention based on information in their central selection record. The record contained evaluation reports, decorations, and the Retention Recommendation Form.

Officers not selected for retention will be separated no later than Sept. 29 but are still eligible to apply for the Palace Chase or the Blue to Green programs.

"The Air Force values the selfless service and sacrifice of these officers who volunteered to serve," said General Spears. "We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. It is our hope they will choose to continue their service to our great nation."

Those officers looking for opportunities to continue to serve as a civil service employee should visit the Office of Personnel Management Web site at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov> for more information.

The base Family Support Center here offers transition assistance classes covering employment searches, creating resumes, preparing for civilian life and financial preparedness. Classes are offered regularly. Interested members can call the base FSC at 225-8725.

For the latest information on force shaping, visit <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/forceshaping/shape.htm>.

(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center)

Combat Readiness Detractors; helping the one percent 'get it'

The following individual was court martialed in April:

A judge sentenced a staff sergeant to a dishonorable discharge, confinement for nine months, and a reduction to airman basic for willfully missing a movement for his deployment to Iraq, dereliction of duty, making two false official statements and making statements that he would not deploy and would tell military authorities he would harm himself in order to avoid deploying.

The following individuals received Articles 15 in April:

An airman first class received a

reduction to airman and restriction to base for 60 days for being drunk and disorderly.

A senior airman received a reduction to airman first class, a suspended reduction to airman, restriction to base for 45 days and 45 days extra duty for adultery.

An airman first class received a reduction to airman basic, forfeiture of \$636 in pay, restriction to base for 15 days and 15 days extra duty for sleeping on duty.

A senior airman received a suspended reduction to airman first class, 14 days extra duty and a rep-

rimand for disrespect to a noncommissioned officer and two derelictions of duty.

A master sergeant received a reduction to technical sergeant and a reprimand for adultery and dereliction of duty.

The following individuals were punished by Japanese authorities:

A senior airman received a fine of 90,000 yen for speeding (50km over the limit).

A senior airman received a fine of 200,000 yen for causing an accident resulting in personal injuries to a moped driver.

Base meets 195 percent of campaign goal

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

Community members went above and beyond in the annual Air Force Assistance Fund (AFAF) campaign, which wrapped up here May 5.

The base's goal of \$48,397 was met almost doubled as donations topped off at \$95,414, according to 374th Airlift Wing AFAF representatives. Approximately 45 percent of eligible community members participated in the campaign.

Among the top contributors were the associate units with 58 percent participation, and the 374th Mission Support Group with approximately 37 percent participation.

The 374th Maintenance Group came in second for people participating with approximately 46 percent.

At squadron-level, the best performers were the 374th Operations Support Squadron meeting its goals by 399 percent; the 36th Contingency Response Group by 392 percent; and the Armed Forces News detachment here by 376 percent.

The money will be used to aid Airmen and their families who are in need. The organizations receiving the money include the Air Force Aid Society and the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund.

Approximately \$187,000 came back to the Yokota community from the 2005 AFAF campaign in assistance for its Airmen and families.

Nihon-go now

⇒ **Good morning**
Ohayo gozaimasu
(oh-hae-yoh goh-zah-ee-mass)

⇒ **Good afternoon**
Konnichi wa
(koh-n-nee-chee wah)

⇒ **Good evening**
Konbon wa
(koh-n-boh-n wah)

AD

C-130 maintainers pick up awards for excellence, dedication

By Staff Sgt. Karen J. Tomasik
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Two members of Yokota Air Base's maintenance community earned Pacific Air Forces recognition as outstanding maintenance support systems performers.

The award winners are Toshiba Bun, maintenance supply liaison with the 374th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and Airman 1st Class Frances Perera, maintenance production management apprentice with the 374th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

Mr. Bun was cited as the key to

the 374th AMXS's highest mission capability rate in 12 months with a rate of 90 percent for April – besting the PACAF standard of 75 percent. He also processed more than 400 supply transactions valued at more than four million dollars with 95 percent accuracy and zero delinquent supply rejects.

Managing the largest bench stock on base, he was responsible for 1,646 line items valued at more than \$600,000, beating the PACAF fill rate by four percent. His efforts to ensure parts availability were integral to the unit's C-130 mission capability rate of 79 percent.

Despite all his accomplishments, Mr. Bun was very humble about receiving recognition for his work.

"I was very surprised to learn I was selected for this honor," said Mr. Bun. "I was not expecting this, and I am deeply honored."

Airman Perera flawlessly managed 1,157 aircraft historical records earning zero documentation discrepancies during a quality assurance evaluation. She also coordinated the isochronal inspection schedule for 23 aircraft assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing and 353rd Special Operations Group ensuring

\$546 million in assets were delivered on schedule.

Airman Perera aggressively reduced major command workable time-compliance technical order man-hours from 15,724 to 9,683 – a 62 percent reduction in one year. She conducted dedicated crew chief briefings, facilitating a better understanding of scheduling policies and procedures.

When her office suffered a manning shortfall, she single-handedly manned the work center normally maintained with a technical sergeant and three Airmen.

Airman Perera was hand-

selected to attend Federal Logistics Training and brought back knowledge to train other wing members. The knowledge she imparted reduced the special inspection time change and time-compliance technical order review times by 75 percent.

"Airman Perera is truly and outstanding performer," said Senior Master Sergeant Greg Kuhn, 374th MOS superintendent. "As an airman first class stationed here for two years, she really stepped up to the plate performing the same work we expect from a seasoned staff sergeant."

Smart Operations 21 officials visit Airmen, explain future of Air Force

By Capt. Ben Alumbaugh
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

As the Air Force goes into the 21st century, the Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower and personnel told Airmen at Yokota Air Base May 9 that they will face many changes to help tackle the need to modernize and sustain the force for the long term.

Lt. Gen. Roger Brady also took the opportunity to address personnel changes and mentioned the possible merging of careers.

General Brady serves as the senior Air Force officer responsible for comprehensive plans and policies covering all life cycles of

military and civilian personnel management, which includes military and civilian end-strength management, education and training, as well as compensation and resource allocation.

"We are building a different Air Force," he said. "Not just a smaller Air Force, but a different Air Force."

The way the Air Force intends to perform this transformation is the Air Force Smart Operations 21 program. AFSO21 is being used to streamline operations to improve efficiency and reduce waste.

"We have to be ready to face today's challenges as well as tomorrow's challenges," said General Brady.

"We do this by focusing on three accounts: people, operations and investments. Our people accounts are out of balance right now," said the general. "People costs are 34 percent of our operating budget and that's before you factor in health care costs."

According to General Brady, to be able to take care of current and future personnel, there has to be some changes.

Therefore, over the next few years there will be manning changes to include more than 40,000 personnel leaving the force.

"This is all about making the Air Force the way it needs to be," said General Brady. "These cuts will touch each and every career field."

As part of this change the Air Force will put the priority on working in forward locations and then working backwards from there.

"It's all about reach back," said General Brady. "As you get further removed from the fight and get closer to home stations and you have fewer uniformed resources, the question has to be asked if these tasks have to be performed by uniformed personnel or if they can be performed by someone else."

Another part of the transition is the Air Force's need to look at merging some career fields.

The reason for this thinking, according to the general, is current operations along with the decreasing size of the service.

AD

Knowing, doing, demanding the 'right thing'

By Lt. Col. Donald Kimminau
374th Operations Group

A few years ago, an old friend asked me why I was still in the Air Force instead of jumping to the airlines and the money it offers.

My answer was simple. I like being in the Air Force.

I believe we hold ourselves to higher standards than almost any other group in the world. Being in an organization like this places additional restrictions on individual actions, but it makes the people and the organization better by building a stronger trust among those who live up to the standards. Simply put, doing the "right thing" has a different meaning and level of importance to us than to the civilian world. Let me provide an example.

In the fall of 2002, I had the opportunity to spend a few days accompanying Lt. Col. Joe Jackson on his visit to Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. I had invited him to be our keynote speaker at a wing-wide dinner.

You see, Colonel Jackson was awarded the Medal of Honor for a heroic mission in Vietnam. Although an extremely humble man, I was able to coax

him into telling me his story.

On Mother's Day, May 12, 1968, a small Special Forces camp located at Kham Duc, Vietnam, was being overrun by the North Vietnamese. Under intense fire, the evacuation was called complete, but not until eight aircraft were shot down.

Immediately after the decision was announced for bombers to level the camp, a frantic call came from a C-130 departing Kham Duc, "We've still got three men on the ground!" Indeed, Spare 808 had just dropped off three Air Force combat controllers not realizing the camp had already been abandoned. The men were now alone on the ground next to a runway strewn with mortar damage and the remains of at least three of the destroyed aircraft.

Colonel Jackson and his fellow C-123 crew were flying a "milk-run" with no expectation of transiting Kham Duc when they heard Spare 808's desperate plea. Without delay, Colonel Jackson immediately told the crew, "We're going in," and turned the aircraft towards Kham Duc and danger.

Following a dangerously steep approach through fog and ground fire, the C-123 touched down, loaded the

stranded airmen and turned around for takeoff. Undaunted even by the 122mm rocket that hit just in front of the airplane, but miraculously broke up without exploding, they departed the now overrun camp and airfield.

After hearing the recount of that day's events, I asked Colonel Jackson what went through his mind that lead to the valiant decision to proceed to Kham Duc. He told me he didn't have to think about it, because it was the right thing to do.

"Doing the right thing is always easy," said Colonel Jackson. "The hard part sometimes is figuring out what the right thing is. That day, figuring it out was easy too."

What? I thought. Flying an unarmed aircraft, with its crew of five, into the middle of an intense battle to save three doomed Airmen was "easily" the right thing to do? To those of us in the military, the answer is an uncomplicated, yes.

There are very few organizations in mainstream America filled with people whose decision would come so effortlessly, and there are some who would not even agree the answer is yes.

Since 9/11, a growing

number of military personnel have faced such life-threatening decisions, and we have had the fortune to hear of their heroic responses. However, most of us have not had to face such situations. Nevertheless, to maintain confidence in ourselves, we must always do the right thing and demand that of each other.

As Colonel Jackson said, the difficult part sometimes is determining what that is. Yet, I believe, most of the time it is not difficult. If you think about it, following the Air Force Instruction, technical data, checklist and other established procedures; obeying the articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; providing appropriate feedback to your subordinates; putting in a little extra time on that decoration, award, or report for a deserving troop; and being a good wingman are all pretty simple.

The hard part has already been done, now comes the easy part. It's easy, because it is who we are. That's why I am proud to be in your Air Force, because I am surrounded by people who understand the "easy way" is the "right way." We strive to learn what the right thing is, learn how to do it right, then we "just do it."

Asian-Pacific Americans: adding to the American mosaic

By Special Agent Joseph LaVillie
Office of Special Investigations detachment

INCIRLIK AIR BASE, Turkey (AFPN) – An area studies professor asked our class to describe the "Asian-Pacific culture."

As we tried, we had to account for the largest landmass and ocean area in the world. We also had to keep in mind individuals from nearly 30 different countries and countless islands, each with a unique historical and cultural heritage.

Some used descriptions such as family-centric, studious, hardworking, money-saving and mainly Oriental. However, the more we discussed, the more we realized that it is an amazingly large area with great diversity.

So, how is it possible to write a short article about a very diverse group in recognition of Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month?

Let's start with the official celebration of Asian-Pacific American heritage. It began in 1978, but was celebrated for only one week in May. The Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month was enacted by Public Law on Oct. 28, 1992. The purpose was to honor the achievements of Asian-Pacific Americans and to recognize their contributions to the United States.

The month of May was selected for this recognition because two significant events in history took place in that month: Japanese immigrants first arrived in the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day) by a majority of Chinese immigrants.

Asian-Pacific Americans have added to the American mosaic. The Chinese

were the first Asians to arrive in large numbers in the 1800s, with a boom during the California gold rush. Another large group was the Japanese, but mainly

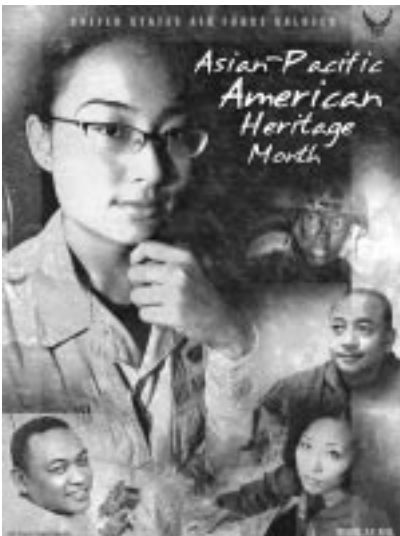
in Hawaii and California. At the beginning of the 1900s, Filipinos began to immigrate in significant numbers after the Philippines came under U.S. control following the Spanish-American War.

Asian-Pacific immigration continues from just about every country. Today, there are more than 13 million Americans who claim their heritage to be Asian-Pacific.

Asian-Pacific people have even influenced our military development. There are few students of military strategy who have not studied the Chinese teachings of Sun Tsu or read the book "Art of War." About 3 percent of our Air Force lists their heritage as Asian-Pacific.

A memorable event occurred in May 1987 for an Air Force Asian-Pacific American – Hoang Nhu Tran, a former refugee. He graduated as valedictorian of the U.S. Air Force Academy in a class of 950 students. He was also a Rhodes Scholar and Time Magazine's recipient of the 1986 College Achievement Award.

One article cannot cover all the aspects of a diverse group like the Asian-Pacific Americans. The month of May is your chance to learn about their heritage.



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Editor

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DUI Prevention

May 10 – May 16	0
Total DUIs in May	1
Total in 2006	4

Punishment

.049 or less = car parked for 12 hours
.05-.079 = 6 months walking
.081-.149 = 1 year walking
0.15 or greater = 2 years walking

*Don't
drink and drive.
Call 225-RIDE!*

Celebrating historical friendship

By Master Sgt. Dominique Brown
374th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

Yokota's East Elementary School hosted a special 60 year celebration recently with the children of the nearby Aiji-No-Ie orphanage. Located in Nakano-ku, Tokyo, the orphanage was first established in 1945 for child victims of World War II who lost their parents.

The children from Aiji-No-Ie and Americans stationed in Japan share a rich history and the annual spring visit was an opportunity to celebrate that history.

Twenty-six children from Aiji-No-Ie came to participate in activities including: pottery, parachute, relay race, panning for gold, scoop balls, balancing balls in plungers, ABC's, learning to dance "The Twist," making paper flower lei necklaces, lunch and a musical performance.

This year's spring visit also commemorates a very special anniversary, celebrating the six decades that Americans have assisted the children of Aiji-No-Ie. Through the years, the relationship has developed into a deep friendship and an opportunity for cultural exchange now formally called the Yokota East Exchange Program. However, its beginnings have a long history with tragic beginnings.

Mrs. Sadyo Ishiwata, founder of the orphanage in 1945, was formerly a wealthy woman who sold her worldly possessions and used all of her money to clothe, feed and shelter homeless children after the war. Word quickly spread of her selfless humanitarian deeds. Within the next year, Mrs. Ishiwata, sometimes affectionately called Mama-san, started to receive aid and supplies from Americans stationed in Japan.

Some relief supplies even came from

the United States after a January 1951 Reader's Digest article highlighted the orphanage. A historical document in the orphanage archive reads, "Our American friends have been assisting us both physically and spiritually since right after the end of World War II. Aiji-No-Ie has built up and expanded through the succession of these priceless gifts."

Assistance continued to come from multiple sources over the years. Initially, donations of food, clothing and money came from the Woman Officers of U.S. Civilian Information Service in Tokyo. A few years later donations came from the Chief of U.S. Army Civil Censorship Department, and then from the U.S. Navy until 1961 when American schoolteachers stationed at nearby Johnson Air Base took over sponsorship.

The list of people who maintained the relationship with the orphanage over the decades is extensive. However one community member here has played a primary role.

Joan Mendel, a third grade teacher at East Elementary since 1973, has been a supporter of the Yokota East Exchange Program for over 40 years. Ms. Mendel first became involved with the orphanage in 1964 while she was stationed as a teacher at Johnson Air Base, until the base closed in 1973 and East Elementary School opened its doors here. After a transition period, the relationship with the orphanage was resumed by Ms. Mendel and continues through today.

"Working with Joan Mendel and seeing her dedication has been a life lesson in itself," said Jennifer Miller, fifth grade teacher at East Elementary and also another key contributor to the exchange program.

"She really is the 'Mother Teresa' of Yokota Air Base. Her life example and commitment to Aiji-No-Ie has touched so many through the years."

As part of the exchange program, each class at East Elementary sponsors a child. During the recent celebration here, each child



photos by Master Sgt. Dominique Brown

Above, children from the Aiji-No-Ie orphanage learn how to dance "The Twist" with students at Yokota East Elementary School during the annual spring celebration visit. Below left, YEES students and staff play a parachute game with their guests. Below right, children make lei necklaces together as part of the culture exchange program between YEES and the Aiji-No-Ie orphanage that has spanned six decades.

spent some time with their sponsor class for part of the day's activities. At Christmas, each class collects money and purchases a gift for that child. Any extra money collected is used to purchase turkeys and trimming for their Christmas dinner.

Also, YEES students are invited for an annual March visit to the orphanage for Girl's Day Celebration where one student from each class spends the day with the children at the Aiji-No-Ie home. The children share Japanese culture with the students from Yokota teaching flower arranging, calligraphy, the traditional tea ceremony, mochi pounding games and sharing traditional food.

"The friendship with Aiji-No-Ie has been a very important experience for me. Knowing you are helping others gives one a real meaning in life and it is rewarding to see our school children learning this at an early age," said Ms. Mendel.

Mrs. Sadyo Ishiwata, the

founder who dedicated her life to children in need of a home, passed away in 1989 at the age of 93. Her daughter, Hiroko Ishiwata is now the assistant director of the orphanage and continues in the same selfless tradition as her mother.

"For these children, the biggest and best gift is hearts that love. This is what the founder, Mama Ishiwata did. She shared the essence of human love, and we are endeavoring to do this too," said Ms. Mendel.



AD

Off base

Sidewalk sale: The American Embassy's housing compound is having a sidewalk sale Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is located in Roppongi. Parking is available. No pets are allowed.

Dog-run festa: Held at Showa Kinen Memorial Park Saturday, this festival includes a dog race and show. It is located at JR Ome Line's Nishi-Tachikawa Station.

Fussa Kagayaki Festival: This is the biggest civic festival of the year and includes games, food, desserts, drinks, a miniature petting zoo and emergency service displays. It is Sunday near the Tama River park from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tokyo Minato Festival: People can celebrate the sea at the Harumi Futo, the pier that opens into the Pacific Ocean in Tokyo, May 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is a bus ride from the Tokyo Metro subway's Yuraku-cho station.

Seibu Train Festa 2006: The Musashigaoka Sharyo Kenshu-jo, or train vehicle maintenance factory, is opening its doors for people to see and experience their trains, vehicles and facilities June 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is a 12-minute walk from the Seibu Ikebukuro Line's Ko-rai station.

Tokyo Summerland: It is International Weekend at Tokyo Summerland June 24. Admission to the indoor and outdoor pool is free, and one ticket will admit up to three people. Five hundred tickets are available at the Yujo Recreation Center.

Soccer celebration: J-League player Miyamoto is producing the celebration at the Marunouchi Building near Tokyo Station. It features a café and historical soccer items. It will be on display until July 9.

On base

Movies

Today – *Failure to Launch*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Goal! The Dream Begins*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 2 p.m.; *She's the Man*, PG-13, 7 p.m.; *Goal! The Dream Begins*, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Sunday – *Shaggy Dog*, PG, 2 p.m.; *Goal! The Dream Begins*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Monday – *Goal! The Dream Begins*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Tuesday – *Failure to Launch*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Wednesday – *Goal! The Dream Begins*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

Thursday – *She's the Man*, PG-13, 7 p.m.

All movies and showtimes are subject to change without notice. Call 225-8708.

Adoption meeting

A meeting about adoption is Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Family Support Center. E-mail adoptionyokota@yahoo.com.

Tax center change

The base tax center hours are reduced as the tax season winds down. New hours are Monday and Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. People filing 1040EZ forms can use the walk-in hours, Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Visit Tower 3002 or call 225-4926.

Shopping tour

The Family Support Center is hosting a tour of the Machida shopping center May 27 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call 225-8725.

Job seminar

The Family Support Center is hosting a seminar about searching for local and federal jobs. May 31 from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 225-8725.

Greek Fest II

The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Tokyo Alumnae Chapter* is hosting Greek Fest II May 20, 12 to 4 p.m. at Snyder Park Pavilion. Adults, \$10, children 4-11, \$5. Ribs, chicken, hamburgers and hotdogs. Alternate location in case of rain is Yokota West Elementary School.

Neighborhood watch

The 374th Security Forces Squadron is seeking residents interested in helping with the neighborhood watch program. Call 225-7244.

Assessment survey

Community members can voice their interest in new education programs by completing the Needs Assessment survey on the Air Force Virtual Education Center Home Page through the Air Force Portal or stop by the Base Training and Education Services Office.

Pre-deployment help

The Family Support Center hosts pre-deployment briefings for military members and their spouses every Thursday from 9 to 11 a.m. Call 225-8725.

National Police Week

The 374th Security Forces Squadron will be at the Yokota Community Center Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. offering children ID cards and finger-printing, bike registration, displays and more.

Black and White Ball

The Cherry Blossom No. 42* and Sakura Chapter No. 28* are sponsoring the 46th Annual Black and White Ball May 20 at 6 p.m. at the Enlisted Club. Tickets are \$20. Dress is semi-formal to formal. Call 225-7607.

Tanabata Dancers*

Community members are invited to learn easy traditional Japanese dances and how to wear summer kimono. Practices are Fridays in Tower 2085 activity room, near the Enlisted Club. E-mail tanabata_dancers@hotmail.com.

One-day conference

The Protestant Women of the Chapel is hosting a conference May 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Traditional Chapel discussing leadership in women's ministry. Call 225-7009.

IDEA

Air Force members can participate in the Innovative Development through Employee Awareness (IDEA) program and earn cash recognition for providing ideas with both tangible and intangible benefits. Call 225-8144.

SANDBOX SAMURAI



OF THE WEEK



Airman 1st Class Jay Pickle

Airman 1st Class Jay Pickle, deployed from the 374th Logistics Readiness Squadron to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, is this week's Sandbox Warrior of the Week for exhibiting the Bushido qualities of a duty to defend the honor of one's name and guild, and sincerity and respect for one's word of honor.

He recently reached a record one million gallons of aviation fuel pumped during his deployment, directly supporting more than 600 sorties in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He is the first Airman to reach the achievement at his deployed location as part of Air Expeditionary Force 9/10.

Retirement

A retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. André Greené, former 374th Airlift Wing command chief, will be at the 374th Operations Group garden, Bldg. 703, May 23 beginning at 3 p.m. A reception follows at the Enlisted Club.

Computer Users Group

The Computer Users Group Yokota* is meeting May 27 at 5 p.m. at the Yujo Recreation Center. Computer fanatics are encouraged to attend. Visit www.cugy.net.

Bazaar

A services division bazaar is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Yujo Recreation Center.

Closure

The base housing flight is closed May 26 in observance of the Pacific Air Forces family day.

Dorm managers

The base housing flight is accepting applications from staff to master sergeants to fill dormitory manager positions. Call 225-8045.

Live entertainment

The Enlisted Club is hosting Image Records May 27 beginning at 9 p.m. Hit R&B music will be performed. The show is free for club members. Call 227-8820.

Furniture sale

The Enlisted Club is hosting a furniture sale May 27 and 28 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chapel Schedule

Traditional (West) Chapel
Catholic: Mass, Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Protestant: Traditional service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Liturgical service Sundays at 12:30 p.m.; Seventh Day Adventists, Saturdays at 9 a.m.

Contemporary (East) Chapel
Protestant: Gospel service, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Korean Service, Sundays at 2 p.m.; Contemporary service, Sundays at 5 p.m.

PO disclaimer

An asterisk (*) denotes a private organization. Private organizations are not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components and have no governmental status.

AD

“Quotes” & Things

“I’ll tell you how smart Pete is. When they had the blackout in New York, he was stranded 13 hours on an escalator.”

**Joe Nuxhall,
on Pete Rose**

I-Scream Social: The Sakana outdoor pool, located behind the Taiyo Recreation Center in west housing, is hosting an ice cream social May 27 at 10 a.m. to kick off its open season.

Ekiden: The Yokota Striders are hosting its annual Ekiden relay races June 11. To sign up or volunteer to help, call 227-3048.

Golf: Golf lessons and clinics will be offered for children and adults throughout the summer beginning in late June. The cost is \$65 per a child for each session, and \$99 per an adult for each session. Each session is five days. Call 225-8815.

Outdoor Rec: The Outdoor Recreation Center is offering the following trips: canyoning at Minakami in Gunma Prefecture May 24; sea kayaking and camping at Matsuzaki, Izu in Shizuoka Prefecture May 27 to 29; white-water rafting in Gunma Prefecture June 3; and wakeboarding at Lake Yamanaka June 10. Call 225-4552.

National High Blood Pressure Education Month: May is annually recognized as National High Blood Pressure Education Month. If high blood pressure is untreated, it can lead to hypertension, and increase the risk of stroke and heart disease. Prevention includes exercise, a reduced salt intake and a healthy diet.

Bikers ride a slippery Tour de Tama



photo by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

Mountain bikers make a choice between taking or escaping the “double dip,” which is two steep hills right after the other, during the semi-annual Tour de Tama race held at Tama Hills.

By Senior Airman Katie Thomas
Editor

The weather was a tad on the wet side, but that didn’t daunt more than 80 mountain biking enthusiasts Saturday.

The bikers rode the trails around the Tama Hills camping area for a chance to snag first place in the semi-annual Tour de Tama.

Placing in the rookie category were: Masuhiro Shinozaki, 54:50; Roy Mamuad, 57:50; and Felipe Vasquez, 59:06.

Claiming tops in the women’s open were: Michelle Fraser, 1:01:19; Mitsuwa Sunaga, 1:10:32; and Anotoaneta Fitzpatrick, 1:12:04.

In the men’s over 35 category: Shinobu Takasugi, 42:19; Makoto Yanagisawa, 44:58; Yasutaro Doi, 45:55.

Placing in the men’s open category: Eric Fitzpatrick, 45:45; Mitsuo Okutsu, 45:46; and Satoshi Murata, 45:47.

Taking top in the expert category: Kazukuki Suzuki,

1:00:40; Yuuki Takahashi, 1:01:27; and Seiichi Mizumura, 1:01:54.

Expert riders had to complete three laps, each which is about two kilometers long, while the other categories had to complete two.

The trail itself is considered beginner to intermediate level, and includes two consecutive steep hills called the double dip.

Status Of Forces Agreement (SOFA) riders included: Matthew Arant, David Arenas, Mark Borawski, Joseph Chesnut, Chris Dadvas, Philip Defenbach, Jessica Ecker, Randal Ecker, Amber Fagan, Brian Fagan, Wesley Fritz, Elisee Galindo, Scott Graham, Jerry Hickey, Walter Humenik, Rachael Nussbaum, Spencer Palmer, Christopher Peterson, Debra Roberts, Allen Shew, Michael Smith, Mark Sullivan, Christian Thompson, Matthew Wehner, Eric Whiteside, and Alan Whymant.

The next Tour de Tama race is tentatively scheduled for November. Community members can look for more information in the fall.

Yokota’s own helps AF women’s soccer take championship

By Staff Sgt. Ty Reyes
Air Force Services Agency

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – The Air Force repeated as the armed forces women’s soccer champions at the 2006 championship tournament hosted by Naval Station Mayport, Fla., May 2 to 8.

The first game of the tournament pitted the Air Force against the Army. Army came out aggressively against the defending champs however fell 1-0.

In game two, Air Force played Navy, who had taken a 9-0 loss the day before against Army.

Navy came out energetically in the second half but could not faze the defending champs. Air Force had three goals in 20 minutes scored by Emminger, Zwiers and Elizabeth Welliver, a first lieutenant from Yokota Air Base, Japan. The final score was 5-0.

Game three, Air Force vs. Army, the Army had a few great shots on goal but Jennifer Wolf, a second lieutenant from Corpus Christi NAS, was not letting anything by her. Air Force had opportunities as well, but the Army keeper was also on every shot. The game ended in a 0-0 tie.

In the final game against Navy, the first goal was from a corner kick headed in by Amber Reynolds, a first lieutenant from Ramstein AB, Germany. Just before the halftime whistle Stockett noticed the goal-keeper was far from the goal and hit a deep shot, from about 40 yards out, putting Air Force up 2-0.

In the second half Navy got too aggressive and lost a player to ejection. Air Force took advantage of the opportunity and ended up getting two goals in the final minutes, one by Zwiers and one by Welliver, ending the game with a 4-0 win and a record of 3-0-1.

Six players were selected to the all-tournament team: Wolf, Miller, Burnside, Welliver, Emminger and Tatarek.



Hit ‘em up

Left, Clarence “Missile” Hucks, 374th Contracting Squadron, prepares to lay a spike on the 374th Operations Group intramural volleyball team May 12 during the season’s championship game. Hucks was named the game’s most valuable player. Below, the 374th OG return the ball to CONS during the second game of the series that evening.



photos by Senior Airman Katie Thomas

AD